

Sketches submitted to the
Delta Kappa Gamma Society
of North Carolina for inclusion in
Some Pioneer Women Teachers of North Carolina

by Ruth Fitzgerald

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Compiled and written
by
Ruth Fitzgerald, Professor Emerita of Education
(Class of 1905)

VIOLA BODDIE

1864-1940

Miss Viola Boddie brought high ideals, thorough scholarship, a love of the classics, culture, charm, and beauty to the charter membership of the faculty of the State Normal and Industrial School when it opened in the fall of 1892. A member of the first student body recalls that Miss Boddie was "young, pretty, and wearing such fashionable clothes that the student's attention often wandered from the Latin which she had at her finger tips."

Miss Boddie, a native of Nash County, where she was born on October 2, 1864, was well prepared for her position by experience and training as well as by aptitude and ability. Her experience included that of governess, teacher in a co-educational academy, work in a one-room rural school, teaching seventy-two primary children in a graded school, and a brief period in each of two denominational colleges for girls.

Her education at Littleton College only whetted her appetite, and after resigning her position as a member of the faculty of Henderson College in 1889, by competitive examination she won a two-year scholarship to the Normal School, Nashville, Tennessee (now Peabody College). It is indicative of her ability, ambition, and courage that she won among forty applicants, and under a ruling that if there were two papers judged to be of equal merit and one that of a man, he should be given the preference.

At Nashville she made a brilliant record, receiving the degree of L. I. (Licentiate in Instruction) in 1891. Her professor of Latin wrote: "Her standing in the College, as a student and as a woman, is of the

highest. . . .But it is not in Latin alone that her scholarship is of the best."

Miss Boddie, like other members of that first faculty of the Normal School in Greensboro, did many chores, being listed in the catalogue of 1892 as assistant to Dr. McIver in the department of pedagogy, as head of the department of ancient and modern languages, and as teacher of both Latin and French. In subsequent catalogues for a period of forty-three years she is designated as teacher and head of the department of Latin.

Throughout her long career Miss Boddie upheld the highest ideals and standards for her students and herself. She was a capable and conscientious instructor, and had the reputation for being a member of the faculty under whom the indolent found no comfort.

Miss Boddie's interests were those of a cultured woman. Along with her teaching of the classics she stimulated her students' interests in world affairs, music, art, and literature.

She loved flowers, especially roses, and she celebrated every Mother's Day by wearing a rose and presenting one to each of her students. Daily in her classroom there was an artistic arrangement of blossoms in season, which after class she shared with other faculty down the hall. She loved beauty in all its forms, and, a devotee of nature, she often admonished her students before examinations, instead of cramming, to take a long walk in the woods.

Possessing a brilliant intellect herself, she fought with Dr. McIver and that early faculty to prove that women do have the brains, the health, and the stamina for higher education as well as men. True to her life plan in later years she gave stalwart assistance in the long struggle to raise the standards of the Normal School to that of the

Woman's College of the University of North Carolina.

Still beautiful and mellowed by the years, Miss Boddie, after her retirement in 1935, for five years made her home near the college. She was a frequent visitor on campus, always attending college and alumnae social events, where her upright posture, beautiful white hair, handsome apparel, still beautiful face, bright eyes, grace and charm of manner lent prestige to any gathering.

Death came to Miss Boddie on March 20, 1940, in Greensboro. Her burial was at her old home in Nash County.

A fitting tribute is expressed in the words of one of her "girls":

"Those who took her courses were held to the work. There were no evasions - no question about your ability to learn Latin - you learned it. If she had the keen, incisive mind, quick at repartee, qualities which would have made her a brilliant lawyer or a successful business woman, it was the same quality which contributed to her recognition of women as individuals, with the power and the right to the highest self realization. From the bottom of our hearts we say, 'Thank you.'"

(Facts from
Gamma Chapter
D. K. S.)

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by
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(Class of 1905)

DR. DIXIE LEE BRYANT

1862-1949

Dr. Dixie Lee Bryant, scientist, scholar, pioneer teacher, and gentlewoman in her rich, full life of eighty-seven years accomplished many things to which she was entitled to point with pride. In her autobiographical sketch, she chose two: first, that she was a pioneer among women in getting a college education; second, that she was privileged to put all of her preparation and efforts, for the first nine years of its existence, into helping to form a real college for Southern girls at the State Normal and Industrial School in Greensboro.

Dixie Lee Bryant was born January 7, 1862 at Louisville, Kentucky. In 1868 she moved with her family to Columbia, Tennessee, where from age six to sixteen she received her preparatory education at a girls' finishing school, the Columbia Female Institute.

Miss Bryant's early teaching experience included one year in an ungraded school in Culleoka, Tennessee, a year in the first public school of Columbia, followed by work at Hamilton College, a girls' finishing school, at Lexington, Kentucky. Teaching only whetted her appetite for more education for herself.

Finding that a university education was not available for a woman in the South, Miss Bryant in October, 1887, matriculated at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where there was available the best in scientific education of the day. From the "hardest school in New England," she was graduated with honors and received the B. S. degree in 1891.

The year following her graduation she taught science in the State Normal College of New Hampshire. In October, 1892, when the North Carolina State Normal and Industrial School opened its doors, Miss Bryant became a charter member of the faculty.

For nine years Miss Bryant did pioneering work in setting up a four year college curriculum in science. Beginning with little equipment and meager facilities, she established laboratories in biology, chemistry, and physics with standard equipment. In Miss Bryant's own words, "I also put in a curriculum of the simplest four year college courses such as women's colleges of the North had."

To the sturdy scholarship and high standards of Dixie Lee Bryant the State Normal owed its early emphasis upon science in the college education of young women. However, the longer she taught the greater became her ambition for more education for herself.

This desire for further study led to her resignation in 1901. The same year she sailed for Europe, where she studied in Heidelberg, Germany and later in Erlangen, Bavaria, where in 1904 she earned the doctorate from Erlangen University.

Returning to America in the fall of 1904, Dr. Bryant entered the public school system of Chicago, and there taught science in the high schools for twenty-nine years.

In 1931 she retired and moved to Asheville, North Carolina, where she spent the remainder of her life. Although retired, Dr. Bryant never lost interest in education. Her keen alert mind made constant contribution through book clubs and research to the enrichment of life around her. Her physical fortitude was almost unbelievable, and her interest in her church,

the Trinity Episcopal Church of Asheville, and all worthwhile civic projects was outstanding.

Her major contributions were made through the American Association of University Women, of which she had been a member for fifty-eight years. It was a source of pride to her that she was elected to membership in this organization in 1891 when it bore the name, Collegiate Alumnae.

Many honors came to Dr. Bryant. On November 8, 1947, she was initiated as an honorary member of Gamma Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma. At the South Atlantic Regional Conference of the American Association of University Women, held in Asheville in 1948, a tribute was paid to her. In February, 1950, the local members of the organization voted to name a five hundred dollar Study Grant - the Dixie Lee Bryant Fellowship, thus honoring both her long membership in A.A.U.W. and her love of research.

Even as death approached, Dr. Bryant was concerned for matters of education as she planned the gift of her books and pictures to the Asheville-Biltmore College Library. Her death occurred in Asheville on November 18, 1949.

When asked for a brief biographical sketch giving the bare facts of her life, Dr. Bryant had written: "Personally, I like the more intimate record of the pioneer movement and the wonderful women in it." She was one of the "wonderful women in it."

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Ruth Fitzgerald, Professor Emeritus of Education
(Class of 1905)*

LAURA HILL COIT

1875-1944

Of the thousands of students who have been graduated from the Woman's College of the University of North Carolina from its initial christening as the State Normal and Industrial School in 1892, none has served the college, the students, and the alumnae longer or more devotedly and efficiently than Laura Hill Coit. Of her it might truly be said, "Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all."

Laura Hill Coit, a native of Salisbury, where she was born October 7, 1875, daughter of Julius and Dovie Knox Coit, was a descendant of two prominent Rowan County families. Steeped in the Bible, the Presbyterian faith, and the tenets of the Shorter Catechism, Miss Coit was preeminently a woman of character and good works.

A graduate of Statesville Female College, she entered the State Normal and Industrial School in 1894, became a student assistant in science in 1895, was graduated in 1896, returned the following year as a teacher of physical education, and until 1901 was variously listed as assistant in mathematics, physical education, and English. In 1901 Miss Coit became secretary of the college and administrative assistant to the president, a position she held for nearly forty years.

Miss Coit held a year long job, taking only a month's vacation after the opening of college each fall. Twice only during the forty-three years of her active service was Miss Coit on leave of absence: in 1897-1898 to spend a year at home and teach in the Salisbury public schools;

and again in 1919-1920 to visit her brother, Dr. Robert Coit, a missionary to Korea. The latter visit was more or less her farewell to the idea of becoming a foreign missionary, which she had planned to do when the death of President Charles Duncan McIver in 1906 caused her to realize the great need of the college for the continuation of her services. Her interest in missions represented a life long devotion.

In her capacity of secretary of the college the duties that devolved upon Miss Coit accumulated with the years until her load of work was staggering to contemplate. A member of the faculty said of her, "Miss Laura Coit, under whose able direction so many wheels move frictionless."

Hers was a marvelously disciplined mind, which executed with accuracy, speed and smoothness. Her sound judgment played upon the many concerns of institutional life as she went about the manifold duties of: secretary of admissions; assembling the materials for campaigns for appropriations from the legislature; settling knotty problems of campus and dormitory routine; meeting thousands of parents, speakers and visitors; keeping a minute diary of college affairs in the absence of the president; being for a period of time chief adviser of religious activities; teaching Bible classes on campus, and holding a college girls' class every Sunday at the First Presbyterian Church; conferring with girls on academic and personal problems, before the office of dean of women was established; acting as faculty head of Mid Way dormitory; directing activities for raising the student load fund, and administering that fund and all scholarships; having charge of the self-help work of students, and the placement bureau; keeping important records of the college, including minutes of the faculty meetings and the college scrapbook of invaluable historic worth.

In all of these capacities Miss Coit came to know the students better than anyone else, and on their return to the campus after years of absence was able to greet them by name. Chancellor W. C. Jackson said of her: "Miss Coit was the best loved person who ever served on our faculty. More certainly, perhaps, than anyone else she translated the reality of college into the lives of the students. She had a phenomenal memory for names and faces. Her devotion to the college was matched only by the devotion of the students to her."

The Alumnae Association was another avenue of service for Miss Coit. Hers was a long service of love and devotion to the alumnae on boards, important committees, as secretary-treasurer, twice as president, and as honorary president from 1922 to her death. To the alumnae as to the students she was an anchor, safe and dependable. They trusted her utterly.

It was as a person that Miss Coit was preeminent. An alumna wrote of her: "Sweet and gentle of heart, a dear, understanding person, keen of intellect, sturdy and fine of character, grounded in the faith of her fathers, Christlike she moved among us."

An alumna and faculty member said of her: "Forthright, intolerant of sham or inferiority of effort with a religious faith, saintlike in its intensity and sweetly compelling. Nor can any record tell of the characteristic expression of Miss Coit's rare spirit - the look on her face. It was that look which those who knew her best will remember longest - the radiant light in the eye, the glow of joy, the confidence and delight just ready to break into a smile, which brought a benediction to thousands who came to her office. This look was the seal of her trust in faculty, students, alumnae, and friends, and the symbol of her vision of goodness,

beauty, and truth which she confidently expected to be realized on this campus and throughout the world."

According to the wishes of the alumnae, in 1939, the College Board of Trustees changed the name of East Dormitory to Laura Coit Hall.

In time there always comes a breaking point when human endurance ceases. That point came to Miss Coit in 1937, when burdened with her manifold college duties, together with grievous sorrow over the tragic death of a beloved brother, her health became so impaired that she was forced to take a long-needed rest. From that time she made her home with her family at Montreat, where she died February 24, 1944.

Dean of the College, Dr. W. C. Smith once said of Miss Coit: "We are wondering if it is ever vouchsafed to Miss Coit to get a Pisgah view of her service - ableness to this college and to the world."

God grant her that Pisgah view.

*Compiled and written by
Ruth Fitzgerald, Professor Emeritus of Education
(A former student of "Miss Mattie" and
"Miss Laura")*

MATTIE M. EATON
Head of Sunnyside Seminary
1852-1909

LAURA CLEMENT

1844-1902

Miss Mattie Eaton, known to friends and acquaintances as "Miss Mattie," beginning her teaching career at the age of fifteen, for more than forty years gave to thousands of boys and girls of Piedmont North Carolina all the education they ever had, and encouraged and adequately prepared many excellent students for entrance to institutions of higher learning. Miss Mattie's was a private school, conducted with little thought of financial reward, the tuition charges being in direct ratio to the ability to pay. For many pupils it was a "free school." For others it was a high class "boarding school," with pupils coming from a distance to enjoy the superior educational advantages offered, a number finding pleasant, home-like board and room in Miss Mattie's own home.

For Miss Mattie her school was a direct inheritance from her father, Jacob Eaton, a famous educator, proprietor and head of Clay Hill Seminary, located near Mocksville, North Carolina, in the years immediately preceding and following the Civil War. Mr. Eaton, in turn, had assumed educational leadership from his teacher, the Reverend Baxter Clegg, whose Brick Academy, in Mocksville, was built in the late eighteen forties, on the site of the present Southern Railway station. Mr. Eaton had been Mr. Clegg's first student, became his assistant, and succeeded him as head of the school.

In ¹⁸⁶⁷1847 Miss Mattie was herself a student at her father's school, at the time ill health caused him, when she was only fifteen, to shift much of

the responsibility to her shoulders. In 1874, Miss Mattie, now recognized as head of the school, was persuaded to move to the old Brick Academy site in Mocksville. Here for a number of years, tutored by her scholarly father at night, she acquired a fine classical education, which she in turn passed on to her students.

A story still extant among white haired men and women, whose fathers and mothers were among Miss Mattie's earliest pupils, concerns the respect shown her, even at fifteen, by the big boys of the school. The students were lined up at the spring, where Miss Mattie was passing out dippers of water. One big boy, in all earnestness called out, "Miss Mattie, will you condescend to stoop so low as to hand me a drink of water, if you please, Ma'am?"

On January 4, 1892, Miss Mattie, having been joined by her aunt, Miss Laura Clement, also of Mocksville, moved her school to a new building, the Mocksville Academy, later named by the students Sunnyside Seminary. Here for the next ten years, in two rooms, Miss Mattie taught the older pupils and Miss Clement taught the younger ones. In the studio, a small cottage in the school yard, a teacher was employed to give private lessons in music and art and to help with the costuming, the marches, dances, plays, and music of the school, especially for commencement, which was a spectacular affair requiring weeks of preparation every spring.

"Miss Laura," as she was known, was motherly, gentle, and kind. A lover of good reading, one of her greatest contributions was to instill in her pupils a love of books. In the home-like atmosphere of her classroom, in the late afternoon, after "lessons" were over, some one would call out, "Miss Laura, please read to us!" Having had experience in the rearing of not only brothers and sisters but nephews and nieces, she always kept a

weather eye out for small mischief or inattention. The literature she read was so dear and familiar to her that she could continue reading without even looking at the book. A privilege much sought by the little girls was to comb Miss Laura's long, unruly dark hair, which she found great difficulty in keeping neatly arranged. While this grooming was taking place, nothing daunted, Miss Laura read on.

Quietly, earnestly, and without ostentation religion was a daily experience in the lives of Miss Mattie and Miss Laura. Opening exercises, with Bible reading, and memorization of the Scriptures, were part of each day's routine. Older boys and girls were taught to lead in prayer and conduct the exercises.

Miss Mattie's greatest strength as a teacher lay in the fields of composition, literature, and Latin. She stimulated the reading of good books and much memorization of fine poetry. She was a Latin scholar and encouraged her more intellectual pupils to continue their study of the classics in college.

After the death of Miss Laura Clement on September 13, 1902, Miss Mattie, with what assistance she could find, continued her school. Upon the opening of Mocksville's first graded school in 1907, she cordially joined forces with the public schools, teaching one year before her health failed. Death came to her on November 14, 1909.

Nearly forty years after her death, a former student writing in the spring bulletin of the National Delta Kappa Gamma Society in 1947, paid the following tribute to Miss Mattie Eaton, the great friend and teacher of her youth:

"Miss Mattie was great! Miss Mattie was wonderful! The boys and girls of old Sunnyside Seminary had no doubts about the matter. She taught

thoroughly and well. She opened up the treasures hidden in books. Life was a great adventure. She stimulated; she advised; she curbed; she corrected; she praised. Her keen grey eyes were crinkled from smiling, and her infectious laugh rang out loud and clear. Miss Mattie was fifty and frankly stout. But who cared? Miss Mattie had fun teaching school. Her life was rich and full with school, home, family, friends, books, the church and the great wide, wonderful world.

"Miss Mattie went to heaven many years ago; but no former student of hers living today has the slightest doubt that for her, teaching was a good life."

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HARRIET WISEMAN ELLIOTT

1884-1947

Harriet Wiseman Elliott, a woman of parts, with a keen mind, a sturdy physique, an attractive personality, richly endowed with the qualities of leadership, gave unbounded energy and enthusiasm to the pursuit of her life goals. Early in life she became interested in the Woman Suffrage movement, drinking deeply of the inspiration of such leaders as Anna Howard Shaw and other pioneers in the struggle for women's rights. The goals of her life became the education of women and their enfranchisement. She considered education and enfranchisement twin ideas, being convinced that only an educated woman could become a good, responsible citizen. Freedom linked with an educated sense of responsibility were her watchwords, and education and politics the arenas of her gallant and enthusiastic endeavors.

Descendant of a sturdy, well-to-do pioneer family, Miss Elliott was born on July 10, 1884, in Carbondale, Illinois. She was educated at Park College, Parkville, Missouri and at Hanover College, Hanover, Indiana, where she earned the A. B. degree in 1910 and was awarded the honorary degree of L.L.D. in 1941. Her graduate work was done at Columbia University where in 1913 she received the M.A. degree.

Armed with her new degree, Miss Elliott became in 1913, a member of the department of history and political science at the State Normal and Industrial College in Greensboro. Here she was destined to remain for thirty-four years, a potent force for the education of women in the college, her adopted state, and the nation.

Miss Elliott always spoke of herself as a "teacher" at the State

Normal, or at the North Carolina College for Women, or at the Woman's College of the University of North Carolina, as through the years the college changed its name. She became a leader in the development of the Normal College into a great liberal arts college for women.

As the college grew and expanded, Miss Elliott's work in political science became a full time position. Her alive, enthusiastic teaching of government attracted students to her courses so that not only those preparing to teach, who were required to take political science, had the benefit of her instruction, but those seeking mind-stretching electives flocked to her classes. A student said of Miss Elliott's teaching: "As a teacher Miss Elliott awakened the students of this college to their responsibilities as participants in a democracy. She taught them to read newspapers, to cast their votes, to question again and again the why-fors of their local and national community. She forced open the minds of her students, insisting that they think through for themselves the difficult problems that beset young people of our present complicated world."

Miss Elliott, always a dedicated leader of great causes, worked with President Frank Porter Graham and Governor Oliver Max Gardner to organize the Greater University and to establish the Woman's College as an integral part of that university in 1934. She was a member of the first Greater University Council and used her influence to place women on the Greater University Board of Trustees.

Her broad knowledge of government, joined to a definite ability in administration, led her to plan a remarkable student-faculty set-up for the Woman's College. In consequence, in 1935, she was asked to leave the classroom and become Dean of Women in order that she might put her plan into operation.

For twelve years she worked to perfect an organization on the Woman's College campus by which students, while in college, would lead normal integrated lives in happy, beautiful, healthful, homelike surroundings, and at the same time experience the finest type of democratic community living. Her unique contribution was the establishment of an academic and personnel advisory system, with selected members of the academic faculty chosen as class chairmen and advisers of students, together with professionally trained dormitory counselors who were also part-time teachers in some academic field. Under her leadership students were given more responsibility, social activities were expanded, and student government became a fine reality. Always she kept before the students the goal of acceptance of increased responsibility along with increased freedom.

From the beginning Miss Elliott's work and influence were not confined to the college campus. It was her destiny to become a citizen of North Carolina at a time when the state was entering a period of progressive change. As an ardent member of the Democratic party Miss Elliott worked in season and out of season for women's rights and fought vigorously for woman's suffrage. She was a leader in the League of Women Voters, and the American Association of University Women.

Miss Elliott's services to the state included: appointment by Governor Ehringhaus to serve with four men on the State Emergency Relief Administration, 1933-35; delegate-at-large from North Carolina to the National Democratic Convention, 1932-36; director of the educational program for the Woman's Division of the National Democratic Committee, 1934-35; alternate member of the platform committee of the Democratic

Party from North Carolina, 1936; President of the North Carolina Social Service Conference, 1939-40; appointed by Governor Clyde R. Hoey a member of the North Carolina State Committee of the Conference of Southern Governors, 1940.

Not only governors but presidents sought her counsel and enlisted her services. Under President Wilson she was in 1918-19 member of the Woman's National Defense Council during World War I. In 1940 she was a member of President Hoover's Conference on Child Health. She was appointed the only woman member on President Roosevelt's Advisory Commission of National Defense Council and later became Federal Consumer Commissioner. She had part in setting up the WAVES in World War II, and became director of the Women's Division of the War Bond Sales campaign. Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau said of her work, "She became the key person upon whom I learned to build our organization."

After the war, Miss Elliott continued to serve as adviser to the War Savings Staff, and went in 1945 to the London Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), as alternate adviser to the American delegation.

While on loan to the National Government, Miss Elliott returned between assignments to fulfill her policy making duties as Dean of Women. Although she was wise in her ability to organize and delegate responsibility, the students of the last few years of her life, due to her national obligations, missed her presence, her sympathetic understanding, her infectious humor, her radiant smile, her personal charm, her enthusiasm, her genuine concern for the individual student, and her inspiring idealism.

Miss Elliott was an active member of many local, state, and national educational, health, and social service organizations, before

which she often spoke and led discussions. She was an orator of no mean order, possessing a big, pleasing, resonant voice which could adapt itself to a small group or fill a huge auditorium. Men as well as women admired and respected her rapier quick mind in debate, where tensions were broken by her infectious chuckle and her ability to laugh at herself.

Her last talk was given on February 7, 1947, before Alpha Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma, of which she was an honorary member. It is significant that her discussion centered around the educational implications of the recent United Nations Educational Conference which she had attended in London.

The next day after returning from the funeral of her old friend, Oliver Max Gardner, minister to the Court of St. James, and former governor of North Carolina, Miss Elliott suffered a cerebral hemorrhage, and was later taken to her home in Carbondale, Illinois, where she died on August 6, 1947, at the age of sixty-three years.

Miss Elliott believed in democracy, practiced democracy, and taught democracy both in and outside the classroom. No more fitting memorials could have been erected to her memory than the two at the Woman's College: the yearly social science conference established in 1947 as the Harriet Elliott Social Science Forum; and the beautiful and spacious Student Union erected in 1953 and named in her honor, Elliott Hall.

Her best eulogy is expressed in the words of a former student and loyal friend: "Harriet Wiseman Elliott needs no more appropriate monument than the product of her own labor - a living memorial, the ever-widening influence of those who have caught her faith in responsible freedom and believe in it enough to live it."

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MELVILLE VINCENT FORT

1868-1939

Miss Melville Vincent Fort, head of the department of art, added a certain spice and piquancy to the charter membership of the faculty of the State Normal and Industrial School when she became a member in the fall of 1892. Miss Fort was young, 24 years old, and witty, with a pronounced twinkle in her eye. She had two hobbies, art and friends, and she cultivated both.

Miss Fort was born at Starkeville, Mississippi, May 24, 1868. She was graduated with honor from the Mississippi Industrial Institute and College and had additional training in New York. She came to the State Normal and Industrial School from a year's experience in a college in Kentucky.

According to the first college catalogue, Miss Fort offered what no doubt were "lady-like" courses in wood-carving, china painting, designing and decorative art. She also offered some very business-like courses in industrial art, including form study and free-hand drawing, architectural and mechanical drawing, clay modeling, and the history of art.

Talented students learned well under Miss Fort, and many became her fast friends. Under her tutelage one student made an architectural plan so good that a member of the faculty used it in building his house. Most of the students had had no opportunity to study art before coming to the college, and to those who "couldn't draw," her sharp incisive voice sent terror to their hearts and a wavering in their lines, when she said, "You don't see

it that way!" Her complimentary, "That's not bad," became a cherished memory.

Miss Fort's sprightliness and wit covered a very warm heart, which made her a favorite with the entire faculty. The names of Dr. Gove, Miss Petty, Miss Mendenhall, and Miss Fort became closely associated in the minds of the students. The last two made their home together, in the early years, at the "little green cottage" just off the campus. It was a home of friendly banter and witticism mingled with kindness, gracious hospitality, and intelligent conversation. Miss Fort's trip in summer vacation of 1900, in which she visited the art galleries of Europe, gave added interest to both her life and her conversation.

One who became her life long friend was the wife of one of the professors, Mrs. J. Y. Joyner. A son of Mrs. Joyner says, "She was an inseparable companion of my mother. The people whom she most enjoyed were my mother and my children."

In 1919 Miss Fort resigned and moved to Raleigh where for the next few years she did part-time work in the office of the State Architect and in the Revenue Department. In Raleigh she lived in the home of the J. Y. Joyners until the death of Mrs. Joyner in 1930.

In the following years she often returned to the campus to renew old friendships. She was a cherished visitor to former faculty associates, and former students, recalling their visits to the "little green cottage," welcomed news of her.

It was while on a visit to the J. Y. Joyner family in LaGrange that Miss Fort died on July 25, 1939. She was buried in Raleigh, in the Joyner family plot.

Her best tribute is expressed in the words of one who knew and appreciated her: "She had a number of close friends, and I would say that her principal activity and hobby was the cultivation of people."

*by Ruth Fitzgerald, Professor Emerita of Education
(Class of 1905)*

DR. ANNA M. GOVE (1867-1948)

Pioneer Physician and Member
of the Early Faculty of the
State Normal and Industrial School (1893-1936)

"The memory of Dr. Anna M. Gove that I expect to carry through life is not that of a learned physician, or a tireless worker for the common good, or a gracious lady whose poise and manner could grace any social circle, though Dr. Gove was all of these. Rather, I like to think of her as a personal friend that I knew and loved. ...What kept Dr. Gove from resembling, even faintly a saint on a pedestal, was an ever present, quiet but patent sense of humor, a soft spoken quip, a manifest feeling of intimate friendliness that charmed the hearts of high and low and made them feel at ease in her presence. And so I like to think of Dr. Gove, just as I knew her - at once a joy, a solace, and an inspiration."

Thus a former student summarized the life and work of Dr. Anna M. Gove, who as physician, teacher, mentor, and friend served the students, alumnae, and faculty of the Woman's College of the University of North Carolina for more than half a century.

When Dr. Anna M. Gove came to the then State Normal and Industrial School at the beginning of its second year, 1893, she was truly pioneering in the field of health education and in the acceptance of medicine as a proper career for women. In North Carolina there were only two other women physicians, Dr. Annie Alexander of Charlotte and a Dr. Jones of Goldsboro. In many communities a woman physician was looked upon as a curiosity.

In Greensboro the ground had been broken by the first resident physician, Dr. Miriam Bitting, who had remained one year. When Dr. Gove arrived the students with youthful openmindedness readily accepted "the lady doctress," as she was sometimes called. The parents were more hesitant. One mother wrote in 1893, "Please don't teach Mary so much about her insides. It ain't decent."

The doctors, frankly curious about this intruder into their profession, were somewhat awkward and embarrassed in her presence. One country doctor, who read Latin with the ease that he did English, in the spring of 1894, when the state medical society met in Greensboro, drove into town, not so much to attend the sessions as "to see what the female lady doctress looked like." A physician who had come to see his niece, kept his hat on when Dr. Gove came into the room, explaining that he "didn't know how to treat a lady doctor." When Dr. Gove replied that she would be satisfied to be treated as he would treat any other lady, he removed his hat. However, the doctors, we have Dr. Gove's own word for it, were always courteous and kind. Indeed they could hardly have been otherwise in the face of her dignity, professional courtesy, and sound training.

Dr. Gove's quiet modesty probably prevented the full realization of how exceptional were her background and training. Anna M. Gove, born July 6, 1867, descendant of an eminent New England family, a native of Whitefield, New Hampshire where her father was a physician and early graduate of Dartmouth, grew up in a home of the finest culture, and was given the best education that New England could afford. While she received the loving care of an only child, in her bringing up there was

no softness. Her training in manners was so thorough that her taste in conduct was to become almost infallible, and the doing of the considerate, gracious thing became second nature. She was expected to stand on her own feet and to do her duty with courage and without complaint.

Much of her early education came from her father as he made his professional rounds in a buckboard made to carry only one. If the little Anna was very good and promised to hold on tightly, she was allowed to accompany him, and then to minister to the family pets when she returned home.

Following her own and her father's plan that she should become a well-educated woman and physician, Dr. Gove, after private schooling in Whitefield, was graduated from the St. Johnsbury Academy, Vermont. This was followed by a pre-medical course at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. There she joined a small band of girls unusual in both their ability and in their ambition "to master the course at the hardest school in New England." Dr. Gove always remembered her years in Boston as golden years, both because of the goodly fellowship of pioneers and the stimulating instruction.

From Boston she went to New York, graduating in 1892 from the Woman's College of the New York Infirmary (later consolidated with Cornell University Medical School). The year 1892-93 she spent as an intern at the New York Infant Asylum. Forty years later her "chief" was to recall how she did "A-1 medical work," how she "seemed a born physician" and soon won the hearts of all by her marvelous tact and her kindness, to say nothing of the fact that "not even an atom of dust dared attach itself to her."

With this background and training, young Dr. Gove, then twenty-six years of age, small and dignified, gentle and charming, arrived in the fall of 1893 to take up her duties as resident physician, head of the department of physiology and physical culture, and teacher of physiology and hygiene at the newly established State Normal and Industrial School in Greensboro.

A less courageous soul might well have been daunted by the task before her. The new school was almost totally lacking in facilities for the care of the sick, with no dispensary, no infirmary, nor rooms set aside for such use, no office except the classroom, no nurse, no office assistant, and, indeed no hospital in the town of Greensboro.

Four to six girls were housed in each dormitory room, and roommates were supposed to care for the ailing one. On pads hung outside the dining room, illnesses were reported. The doctor visited the sick each day and in addition made daily inspections of all rooms, once for orderliness and in the afternoon to see if the windows were open during the required hour of outdoor exercise. Dr. Gove also taught physiology and hygiene, the general objective being "to give students such knowledge as will make them reverence and care for their bodies and such training as will give them strength and conduce to their happiness."

Dr. Gove's strength lay in preventive medicine. The president's report of September, 1910, states, "The prevention of sickness has been the main object of our resident physician." An early alumna said, "Dr. Gove has worked tirelessly to prevent handicaps among us. She has been willing to do the unexciting, laborious day by day duties of the mother of a large family."

While willing to perform any medical duty from the president's house to the home of the janitor, Dr. Gove's brilliant mind was forging ahead. Dr. Will Beall, her consulting physician for many years, said, "From the beginning her work with the college has been progressively upward."

Under her guidance the health facilities of the college improved year by year. The new infirmary built in 1896 at first had only a colored care-taker, later a practical nurse, and still later a trained nurse. A new large well-equipped infirmary, completed in 1912 under the direct supervision of Dr. Gove, was the first well-equipped infirmary for women students in this part of the United States. Medical and physical examinations were begun when only two colleges, Amhurst and Vassar, required them. The college was one of the first in the country and the very first in North Carolina to add chest X-rays to these examinations.

As the years passed, under her direction a sturdy department of health with a personal hygiene course required of all freshmen was set up. With her stimulation and encouragement the department of physical culture gradually developed into a nationally recognized department of physical education with two years of physical education required of all students.

Improvements in health facilities in the college paralleled Dr. Gove's own growth and development. The itinerary of her study and travels reads like a saga: leave of absence 1896-97 for graduate study in Vienna and attendance at the International Medical Association meeting in Moscow as a delegate from New Hampshire and North Carolina; summer vacation 1899 at the University of Chicago; summer of 1901 at Cornell University; on leave 1901-03 she taught physiology at Vassar and did private practice in Yonkers, New York; on leave 1913-14 for study in Vienna, together with

a Mediterranean cruise, including six weeks in Constantinople and a return trip through western Europe. While on leave in 1917 for study at the Post Graduate Hospital in New York, she signed up for Red Cross work in World War I and went to Europe. Returning to the college in 1920, she studied at the University of Michigan the summers of 1924 and 1928. Her last leave of absence was in 1926-27 for a trip around the world, including China, Japan, Korea, French Indo-China, and India.

Her professional honors and affiliations included: life membership in the American Medical Association of Vienna, honorable fellow of the North Carolina State Medical Society, memberships in the Guilford County Medical Society, the American Medical Association, and the national associations of Public Health, Medical Women, University Women, American Legion, Mental Hygiene, Advancement of Science, Social Hygiene, and Control of Cancer. She was vice-president of the American Student Health Association in 1934-1935, and chairman of a round table at the National Conference on College Hygiene, June 7, 1936.

Many honors came to Dr. Gove. In 1936 the college infirmary became the Anna M. Gove Infirmary, and her name will be given to the new infirmary to be completed in 1953.

Although Dr. Gove actually taught and lectured in the classroom only in the early years, she was in reality the teacher supreme both by precept and by example. So recognized, she was in 1938 elected to the first honorary membership in North Carolina's Alpha Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma.

In 1951 a \$21,000 bequest given in her memory by her cousin Miss Maria C. Brace of Baltimore, to the Woman's College library, will be used to purchase a special collection of fine and rare books, each volume

bearing her name plate.

In 1936 Dr. Gove retired but continued to keep her office and serve in an advisory capacity. With her retirement her home became even more a mecca for alumnae, faculty, and friends. Furnished with heirloom antiques and interesting objects from her world travels, her living room became the center for those who sought genteel companionship and sympathetic understanding. On chilly Sunday afternoons groups would gather around a crackling wood fire and a box of chocolates to listen to the symphony and chat with Dr. Gove. Mattie would appear in the door to announce dinner, Mattie Booker, colored, whose beautiful affection and devotion had served Dr. Gove for many years. People, even the Mattie Bookers, were Dr. Gove's hobby. She was above all thoughtful, thoughtful of the little things that make people feel warm inside.

On January 28, 1948, at the age of eighty, Dr. Gove died. As the fire in her house of friendship went out the college, the alumnae, and the community mourned the passing of a life that had meant so much to so many.

Epitomizing her fine and rare personality, the day of her funeral, on her desk there sat all day long, a small white vase containing three green and golden orchids - lady's slippers.

*Compiled and written
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(Class of 1905-)*

MINNIE LOU JAMISON

1866-1948

Minnie Lou Jamison, connected in various capacities with the Woman's College of the University of North Carolina for more than half a century, was the embodiment of selfless loyalty and joyous service. A member of the first student body of the State Normal and Industrial School in 1892, student assistant in the department of home economics in 1894-95, a member of the first regular graduating class in 1895-96, she was invited by President Charles Duncan McIver to join the home economics faculty in 1896. From that day forward for fifty-two years it was her fortune and her delight to serve the college, the state, and generation after generation of college girls.

Miss Jamison was born October 9, 1866 near Mooresville, North Carolina, of sturdy Scotch-Irish parentage, the daughter of Louise Kilpatrick and Miles Stanhope Jamison. Her early life was spent in the shadow of Prospect Presbyterian Church, Rowan County, and her education received in church, home, and at the academy nearby stressed the Christian ideals followed throughout her long life of love and service.

After several years of teaching under what were primitive conditions in the public schools of Rowan, Iredell, and Cabarrus Counties, her love of her pupils led her to seek a better education in order to be of greater service in the classroom. She began to dream and to save her money to that end. Her story is characteristic of the pioneer college women of that day. She said, "I came to the State Normal and Industrial School with just enough money to eke out my existence for the year (1892).

...I took little odd jobs that year, many of which the janitors do now and receive much better pay - I am glad."

"During my student days I had one good dress. Before my junior year I made it over into an Eton jacket suit for my best Sunday dress. Those were strenuous days, but I do not regret them. I cherish them."

No one of those first students embraced more wholeheartedly than did Miss Jamison the ideal of President McIver, that when you educate a woman you educate a family. The greatest moment of her life was when Dr. McIver invited her to join the home economics faculty at a salary of thirty-three and one-third dollars a month. Now she could have a part in preparing women to meet what she considered their first obligation, the establishment and preservation of the home.

Her early students marvel that so much was done with so little, as with meager equipment she laid the foundations of a great school of home economics. She not only taught them the practical skills of cooking and sewing, but she held before them the ideal of an educated woman in every home. While she taught "how to make a cake that will keep your husband in a good humor" or "how to budget your time, money, and work," she likewise taught by her own life and example the true meaning of the thirteenth chapter of First Corinthians.

In 1897 Miss Jamison added to her duties by becoming assistant lady principal to Miss Sue May Kirkland. As she said, "From that date, my life with students in the dormitory became my happiest work." While holding high standards of conduct, Miss Jamison, always young in heart, sympathized with and understood the problems of youth. What a book she could have written on the "Love Affairs of College Girls."

Miss Jamison was a pioneer in home economics teaching, not only on campus but throughout the state, helping her graduates initiate and set up programs in the high schools, and in 1900 she helped her sister, Lillie Hope Jamison, organize the first work in home economics in the Durham City Schools.

From 1915 to 1922, in connection with the extension division of the College, she worked with rural adults; first, in 1915-16 under the Smith-Lever Act and in cooperation with the State and Federal Departments of Agriculture she went over the state organizing the older women into community clubs; and second, in 1917-18 as secretary of the College Volunteer Workers in North Carolina she put on so effective a program as to merit high praise from Herbert Hoover, the National Food Administrator.

A bulletin, "A Study in Foods and Household Equipment," prepared by Miss Jamison in 1916, received three printings and was circulated throughout the United States and several foreign countries.

Returning to the campus in 1924 after two years of illness, the result of an accident, Miss Jamison was given charge of freshmen, a position she held for the next twelve years, and one she considered her greatest challenge. She said, "My long years of experience have taught me that in every freshman there is a finer self to be developed."

Under her leadership freshman classes beautified the campus with shrubs and flowers and "Keep off the grass" became their slogan. The annual formal banquet became a dance with young men invited from the city and the near-by colleges. Under Miss Jamison's direction the campus, once called "no man's land" by Miss Elliott became a place of normal, happy social life.

In 1936 Miss Jamison on semi-retirement, became adviser in social affairs and was given charge of the Students' Building. She often said, "I wish the college would give me more to do."

At mail time she was to be seen daily on the steps of Students' Building greeting passing students with her cheery "Hello" and often a question about some alumna, probably the student's mother. They called her "the lady with the white powder puff hair."

She was greatly interested in the children of the alumnae. One alumna whose own marriage had been given Miss Jamison's blessing, received a letter concerning her son who had been "courting" on campus. "I'm glad he's given that girl up," wrote Miss Jamison. "She deceives her father and she is not good enough for my grandson."

With her distinctive personality and cordial social graces Miss Jamison was an ideal campus hostess. No gathering of visitors, especially alumnae, was complete without her cordial greeting, and "to pour" was her prerogative.

Miss Jamison was appreciated while she lived. In 1939-40 her last freshman class, as seniors, dedicated Pine Needles, the college yearbook, to her; and that same year the name of West Dormitory was changed to Jamison Hall.

In 1941 on the fiftieth anniversary of the opening of the college, a glowing tribute was paid the life and work of Miss Jamison in the anniversary publication, "Educate a Woman." A student was heard to remark, "How wonderful that she was here to read that for herself!"

Just five days before her death on January 23, 1948 at the age of eighty-one years, Miss Jamison was on the campus for the last time.

Students, alumnae, and friends mourned her passing and reverently attended her funeral at the Presbyterian Church of the Covenant. On a cold winter day Minnie Lou Jamison came home to old Prospect Presbyterian Church to rest with her fathers.

Her best tribute is summarized in the college annual dedication of 1939: "Educator, Counselor, Believer in Youth, Miss Minnie Lou Jamison has served the college and the state since her graduation. Her work has been as distinctive for excellence as for length of service."

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SUE MAY KIRKLAND

____-1914

The position of lady principal, "custodian of manners and morals," of the eighteen nineties laid the ground work for the deanship of today. Miss Sue May Kirkland who was the lady principal of the State Normal and Industrial School for the first twenty-two years of its existence, was in the first catalogue of 1892 noted as responsible for "habits and manners," while in subsequent catalogues she was designated as "lady principal, referee in matters social and domestic," until in the catalogue of 1898-99, when her title became simply, "lady principal."

Miss Kirkland was an extremely important person on the Normal School campus. She was responsible for all social functions as well as the students' correct manners, habits, and conduct in the dormitories and in their social life on and off campus.

This new adventure in state-supported higher education for young women was indeed fortunate in the sturdy personality and fine cultural background of its lady principal. A native of Hillsboro, descendant of a long line of distinguished ancestry, Miss Kirkland was born and bred a true Southern lady. She was educated at the famous finishing school, Nash and Kollock's Select School for Young Ladies, in Hillsboro. Here she experienced the best in culture and correct deportment for young ladies of the period. To this educational background she added experience as a member of the faculty of Peace Institute, Raleigh, a select Presbyterian school for girls.

President Julius I. Foust in his biennial report for 1912-14 paid the following tribute to Miss Kirkland's influence on the life of the

students: "From the opening of the College twenty-two years ago Miss Kirkland has been one of the most important factors in its life. On account of her position she was brought into closer contact with the students than any other member of the Faculty, and for that reason it is impossible to estimate the influence that she exerted, not only upon the life of the institution, but also upon the life of the State through the young women who came under her care and supervision. Miss Kirkland possessed one of those strong, positive characters that made a deep impression upon all with whom she came in contact. . . . Her sympathy for young people was strong and deep, and she met their problems with a fine spirit of cooperation which was always returned by the students."

Miss Kirkland impressed her standards and ideals upon the students as probably no other member of the first faculty did. An early alumnae wrote: "In my picture gallery of memories whether I see Miss Kirkland in her sitting room, moving majestically down the halls, presiding in the dining room or at some social function, she was always a queenly, stately, dignified, commanding personality for whom I had great respect, accompanied at first with a feeling of awe, later with admiration and love. We spoke of her as Queen Victoria. She was always a handsome, well-dressed woman; the rustle of her silk skirts impressed us; also her fine heirloom jewelry, and her lovely hands."

She was a lady "to the manor born" and taught the amenities of life both by precept and example. Amanda, her personal maid, arranged her hair, cared for her wardrobe, and kept her suite in apple-pie order. Her rose garden, carefully tended, abounded in fragrant loveliness.

At her place in the dining hall her own silver service was in

daily use. It was a coveted honor to be invited to sit at her table. Remembered and long used in many alumnae homes was Miss Kirkland's blessing: "Bless us, O Lord, and make us ever thankful for these and all thy mercies. For Christ's sake, Amen."

She set a high standard of morals and manners for her girls. She encouraged the development of the social graces and the religious life. Regular church attendance was arranged for and expected.

A suggestion from Miss Kirkland was equivalent to a command. Two frequent reminders were: "Ladies never hurry." and "Where are your gloves? No lady goes shopping or to church without them."

Many stories are extant depicting Miss Kirkland's dignity. It is said that on one occasion when walking sedately down the aisle of the First Presbyterian Church, she suffered a severe fall. An usher, a handsome young dentist, a favorite of Miss Kirkland, rushed to her aid and asked solicitously, "Are you hurt, Miss Kirkland?" To which she replied, "No, but my dignity is crushed forever."

Miss Kirkland's extreme dignity was off-set by a gracious manner, a lovely smile, a keen sense of humor, and eyes that could twinkle gaily. A tradition handed down by students is to this effect: Miss Boddie on seeing two students sitting unchaperoned in the parlor talking to two young men, took the matter to Miss Kirkland. "When you and I were young, we were never permitted to receive gentlemen without a chaperon," complained Miss Boddie. To which Miss Kirkland replied with a twinkle, "Yes, and see what it did for us."

With the same twinkle in her eyes she is said to have corrected a visitor's salutation of "Mrs. Kirkland," with, "Miss Kirkland, by choice."

Miss Kirkland's strict standards of decorum were typical of the period. Early catalogues carried the statement: "Visits of young men must be restricted to holiday occasions and those stated times when the young ladies will announce that they are 'At Home' to their friends generally." Notwithstanding rules and regulations many a successful romance blossomed on campus and received proper chaperonage in Miss Kirkland's parlours.

On June 8, 1914, while she was on a visit to her sister, Mrs. C. C. Crow, in Raleigh, death came to Miss Kirkland. On the following day she was laid to rest in Oak Wood cemetery. Her age remains a lady's secret.

Memorial services, held at the Founder's Day exercises of the college on October 4, 1914, were devoted to eulogies of Miss Kirkland. On that occasion President Foust said, "Her influence and the inspiration of her life have become one of the best possessions of this college. Such a life lived with sincerity cannot entirely pass from us."

From the private papers of the late Dr. W. C. Smith comes this tribute: "Ever cheerful, ever dignified; gifted in intellect, gracious in manner, helpful in counsel, loyal to truth . . . We had her presence . . . we have her life."

Her life-like portrait hangs in Kirkland Hall, a reminder to present day students of the importance of gracious living even in the atomic age.

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GERTRUDE WHITTIER MENDENHALL

1861-1926

From the first day of its opening in 1892, for thirty-four years, the spirit and personality of Gertrude Whittier Mendenhall wove themselves into the warp and woof of the fabric of the North Carolina State Normal and Industrial School, as year by year it developed from Normal School to College for Women. Her ideals, her standards, her integrity played upon the thinking and action of students and faculty alike. She was so highly respected and honored for her character and scholarship that President Charles Duncan McIver is reported to have declared that he would keep Miss Mendenhall on his faculty even if she could not teach at all.

The "gentle Quaker," Gertrude Whittier Mendenhall, born April 9, 1861 at Guilford College, North Carolina, was descended from a long line of intelligent, educated Friends. Having completed the course at New Garden Boarding School (now Guilford College), she entered *Wellesley* in 1881, where she received the B. S. degree in 1885.

She first became a member of the faculty of Peace Institute, Raleigh; but when in 1888 New Garden Boarding School became Guilford College, true to her Quaker traditions, she returned to become a charter member of the faculty of this newly reorganized institution. While at Peace Institute Miss Mendenhall had been so impressed by the spirit of Charles Duncan McIver that, when in 1892 he invited her to become a charter member of his faculty and head of the department of mathematics at the State Normal and Industrial School then opening in Greensboro, with a sense of real adventure, she accepted.

Miss Mendenhall, a teacher of high native intelligence, the most thorough scholarship, and the greatest respect for her subject, manifested infinite patience and understanding when dealing with students. It must have tried her patience to attempt to teach mathematics to the students from the North Carolina schools of the day, whose background, in the majority of cases, was meager, indeed.

A student of the early years says: "In the fall of 1895 I entered her class; and then began for me four years of happy misery; for I loved her and I did not love mathematics, neither could I understand it; but there was never a time when she did not understand me, and make it possible for my poor mathematical brain to achieve the impossible."

It was true that Miss Mendenhall inspired students to attempt "the impossible." One student relates: "And I did work for her! Everybody did, for you knew you'd die if that summons came, 'Lina, take the next theorem', and you couldn't do it. You would never be able to look her in the eyes again."

Miss Mendenhall was above all things just and rigidly fair but also firm, with the ability to condemn, even severely, when necessary. She was quite canny in her estimates of her students. They reported: "She always knew when you had tried and couldn't from the time you couldn't because you hadn't tried; and how completely by word or even look could she rebuke the careless and reward the diligent, and with what kind and often unappreciated firmness would guide the blind who were trying to see."

Her subject was to Miss Mendenhall a personal thing. To her mind, it taught truth and necessitated straight thinking. Certainly in her own life she demonstrated the high qualities which she claimed for the study of mathematics.

It was common for those who knew Miss Mendenhall to speak of her "conscience," and respect it, too. When grading time came Miss Mendenhall really wrestled with her conscience. But "truth was truth" and some had to receive low grades and even fail!

As a person Miss Mendenhall was gentle, shy, lovable, with a hunger for being loved. She possessed a quaint, quiet, delightfully dry humor. Her sudden smile, illuminating her usually calm countenance, was the essence of sweetness. Said a friend: "Such capacity for friendship she had! How companionable she was! With her advent there always came a warm, friendly atmosphere. Her multitudinous acts of kindness were not prompted by a cold sense of duty, but were the spontaneous and natural expression of her loving heart. Love was what her soul sought from you."

Miss Mendenhall daily lived on a plane that few of us comprehend as possible, but she was always approachable. A sense of superiority was unknown to her, because she possessed the wholesome virtues of sound common sense and a keen sense of humor.

Her students were her friends. She remembered all holidays for those who sat at her table in the dining hall. At Christmas she presented each with dainty neckware. At Easter, after she moved to the "Little Green Cottage," on Spring Garden Street, she gave her girls an egg hunt on the lawn. It was a treat to be invited to supper. At parting in the spring she gave forget-me-nots from her garden, many of which were taken home, planted, and cherished for years.

A former student describes her personal appearance thus: "We looked upon her with respect, mingled with awe, as she sat erect on the platform through chapel exercises, and gazed out at us over the rims of her glasses, which always slid a little way down on her nose, thus giving her a more

severe aspect than she was entitled to. Of course, she wore, nine times out of ten, the white shirtwaist, stiff collar, white or brown tie, and brown skirt that somehow seemed a vertiable part of our everyday Miss Mendenhall." However, while her appearance was demure and neat, her clothes were made of excellent material.

From the beginning to the end of her career, Miss Mendenhall was an influential and highly respected member of the faculty. No important committee was ever complete without her. She was not only a charter member of the faculty but she was also a charter member of the faculty council and of the smaller, more select body, the faculty cabinet. Among the faculty she was known as a thorough scholar, with sane judgment, sound common sense, honesty, and breadth of view in facing issues. She was the epitome of faithfulness and fairness in carrying out any piece of faculty business.

Miss Mendenhall was truly a follower of the Christ. Her religion was a part of her everyday living. In a message to the Alumnae on Founder's Day, October, 1925, a year before her death, she wrote: "Is there not danger in this age of much materialism that we shall think too little of things of the spirit and our own growth in grace and in knowledge of the truth?"

Miss Mendenhall was a life-long member of the Society of Friends and gave much time and devotion to work of the Yearly Meeting and to the development of Guilford College. She was an active member of the Advisory Committee of the college from 1906 to her death, and she was for many years secretary of the Yearly Meeting.

Walter W. Haviland of the Friends Select School of Philadelphia paid a beautiful tribute to Miss Mendenhall in behalf of that wider circle of friends, those beyond the immediate vicinity in which she had lived and

moved: "What was said of Edwin Dowde that 'he never failed in all his life to help any other man, within his conscience,' was true in the highest sense of her."

On April 15, 1926, Miss Mendenhall died and was interred in the family plot in the quiet country burying ground of old Deep River Church, near Greensboro.

Appropriately in her will she had made provision for a scholarship at the Woman's College to be awarded to the sophomore member of the student body showing the most promise in the field of mathematics and who desires to pursue higher work in mathematics or allied sciences.

In 1950 the College honored the memory of Miss Mendenhall by naming a newly completed dormitory Mendenhall Hall.

Two tributes, one from a former colleague and one from a friend and former student express the love and esteem in which Miss Mendenhall was held.

Said Dr. J. Y. Joyner, former dean of the faculty: "One of the choicest spirits, most lovable characters, sweetest influences in that first little faculty of men and women was Gertrude Whittier Mendenhall. She was a wise counselor in perplexing crises; she was a peace-maker in hot and honest disagreement and discussions; she was a comforter in times of sorrow and discouragement; she was an inspiration in the quiet courage of her convictions, devotion to duty, to high ideals. She had no sympathy with show and sham and shirking. ...It was not what she said but what she was, as she moved so quietly among students and faculty, that left all the stronger and nobler that touched the hem of her spiritual robe."

An alumna who knew her longest and best paid this tribute: "For what am I most grateful to Miss Mendenhall? For not disappointing me. As

a child I thought she was a rare, noble woman—as a woman, knowing more of human nature and life's pressures upon it, I know that it is lives like hers that give dignity to human existence."

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ANNIE PETTY

1871-___1962

MARY M. PETTY

1863-___

The Petty sisters, Miss Annie and Miss Mary, have devoted a sum total of almost ninety years of active service in the schools of North Carolina, and now in retirement continue their intense interest in and keen alertness to the educational problems of the day. Their contributions have been and are different, but each in her particular sphere has many first to her credit.

Daughters of Mr. and Mrs. William Clinton Petty of Bush Hill, which in 1887 became Archdale, Randolph County, North Carolina, they were reared in a sturdy Quaker home, where books and learning were cherished and religion was of everyday concern.

Their early education was obtained from excellent teachers in a neighborhood school, for the erection of which their father and his neighbors contributed from five to one hundred dollars apiece. Education and religion being close allies in the thinking of Friends, the children attended school down stairs on week days, and church services up stairs on Sundays.

Miss Mary, the elder of the two sisters, after attending the neighborhood school, completed her preparatory education at New Garden Boarding School, now Guilford College. In 1881, together with her intimate friend, Gertrude Mendenhall, she entered *Wellesley* where she majored

in science and took special work in mathematics, receiving the B. S. degree in 1885.

Her first position was at Statesville College, now Mitchell College, where she occupied the chair, or as she delights to call it, the "settee" of mathematics. In the meantime, New Garden Boarding School, having been raised to college rank, as Guilford College, in 1888, the year of its opening, Miss Petty became a charter member of its faculty as teacher of mathematics and Latin.

After five years on the Guilford College faculty, she in 1893, followed by one year her friend, Gertrude Mendenhall, to the State Normal and Industrial School in Greensboro. Here she joined the science department under the leadership of Dixie Lee Bryant, recent honor graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. As head of the department of chemistry, Miss Petty found herself in congenial company. This young teacher whom the president of Guilford College had described as "a young woman of rare distinction in scholarship and character," for more than forty years made a tremendous contribution toward raising the standards of the institution, as it gradually developed from Normal School to the Woman's College of the University of North Carolina.

Miss Petty, her brilliant intellect never satisfied with meager knowledge, was delighted to receive a year's leave of absence in 1895-96 to work under a fellowship in chemistry at Bryn Mawr. Throughout the years she took advantage of summer vacations to pursue advanced study at Harvard, Columbia University, Cornell University, and the University of California.

On the faculty Miss Petty was celebrated for her keen intellect, broad vision, great common sense, genial personality, and ready wit. As a

member of the faculty, of the faculty council, and of the smaller policy-making body, the faculty cabinet, Miss Petty did yeoman service on many influential committees.

From the beginning the students counted Miss Petty as their friend. An excellent teacher, holding high but not unattainable standards, she was friendly and approachable. The students were "her girls."

In the forty years she was head of the chemistry department, Miss Petty saw the small room in the basement of Administration Building expand into laboratories, classrooms and lecture theatre in the now old McIver Building, and she was still on the faculty when the ground was broken for the spacious Science Building which now furnishes ample room and facilities for all the sciences.

After Miss Petty's partial retirement in 1934, she became social chairman of the faculty, turning her office into a pleasant place where tea was served afternoons, and comfortable chairs invited faculty members to sit and chat. Not only at faculty gatherings but at alumnae meetings Miss Petty has been and is now quite likely to be found pouring tea with her accustomed genial friendliness.

The Miss Petty whom faculty, students and alumnae love is quite aptly portrayed in her "Family Album" message to the Alumnae in October, 1935.

"What should a retired member of the faculty say to the children? Perhaps you did not know that I have retired somewhat and am doing only part-time service. Letters of congratulation or condolence from you have been lacking, so I judge you did not know of my demotion or promotion. Which shall it be? I am having a good time either way. I am retired but not on the shelf.

"I am still in possession of my natural and acquired faculties. I still come to the College five days a week. ...I am very much in the advising business. Besides advising freshmen and sophomores, I can take on any alumnae who care to come to see me. Advice freely given on anything from marriage to make-up.

"Strange to say, the chemistry department is flourishing without my guiding hand. I am in the laboratories part of the time to keep my nose accustomed to the aromas and for the satisfaction of seeing the pupils of my pupils at work. Sometimes I run across a granddaughter and find pleasure in hearing firsthand from the mothers, my first loves."

From early young womanhood Miss Petty has been prominent in the work of the Society of Friends. She was an important member of the Advisory Committee of Guilford College from 1901 until it was disbanded in 1935, and its chairman for the last twelve years. In 1936 she was made the first woman member of Guilford's Board of Trustees.

In 1920 she was a delegate to the World Conference of Friends in England, and in 1937 to a similar conference in this country.

Miss Annie Petty, reared in the same family atmosphere, naturally followed her sister to New Garden Boarding School, then on into Guilford College, where she was graduated in 1894. After teaching one year at Red Springs, in 1895, Miss Petty joined the faculty of the State Normal and Industrial School, as librarian.

While she was called the librarian she actually was a general utility person, receiving and sorting the mail, signing for express packages, and ringing the bell for classes every forty minutes. The library was a small

room in the Administration Building with six tables for reading, and shelves around the side walls. There were very few books except textbooks, which it was her duty to check out to students.

However, Miss Petty saw the vision of what a library could mean to a college, and sought further training. Taking a year's leave of absence she matriculated at the Library School of Drexel Institute, Philadelphia, completing her course in library science in 1899. Returning to the college, she had the distinction of being the only one of her class going straight into a position and of being the first trained librarian in North Carolina.

In true Petty tradition, Miss Annie went about her job quietly, earnestly, unostentatiously, and efficiently, building up the library as she envisioned it should be, the heart of the institution.

Miss Petty's appreciation of books and her enthusiasm for the establishment of libraries were contagious. In 1904 she organized on the Normal College campus the first library association in North Carolina, with five members.

In 1906 the Carnegie Foundation gave twenty-five thousand dollars for the erection of a library, the first such grant ever made to a college. At the same time it made a similar grant to the City of Greensboro, this city becoming the first in the country to have two Carnegie libraries.

Under the leadership of Miss Annie Petty and her fellow enthusiasts, North Carolina was becoming library conscious. In 1909, by legislative enactment, the North Carolina Library Commission was established.

In 1921 Miss Petty severed her connection with the College and went to Raleigh as Assistant Secretary of the State Library Commission. While in this position she had the pleasure of using the first book mobile in North Carolina. The report of the Library Commission for the biennium of 1922-24

contains the story of the purchase of this truck by the Kiwanis Club of Durham and its presentation to the public schools of Durham County. It was in this truck, loaned to the State Library Commission, that Miss Petty, with her nephew at the wheel, had the joy of taking books into the countryside of her own Randolph County, among her old neighbors and friends, her own kith and kin.

Retiring in 1933 Miss Annie returned to the big old Petty home in Greensboro to devote her time to homemaking in her modernized kitchen, and to the peace and contentment of a family life of culture, faith, and good works. Her interest in books and libraries remains as keen as ever.

In February 1952 the Woman's College Alumnae Journal carried a beautiful article in appreciation of the wonderful women, the Petty sisters. Accompanying the article was an unusually true likeness of the two, in their home just off the college campus. A former student and long-time friend of both, remarked to the sisters: "Those are the most beautiful faces I ever saw!" To which Miss Mary quipped, "You must be blind!" But undaunted, the friend replied, "Miss Petty, love is always blind!"

*Compiled and written
by
Ruth Fitzgerald, Professor Emerita of Education
(Class of 1905)*

ETTA RIDER SPIER

1876-1938

Abou Ben Adhem's angel would certainly have written the name of Etta Rider Spier in his book of gold. Undoubtedly she loved her God and her fellowman; home, family, friends; school, community, synagogue. This may sound pontifical, which Miss Spier was not, being a joyous soul ready for laughter.

Born in Tarboro, North Carolina, November 21, 1876, daughter of Samuel and Amelia Rider Spier, she early in life moved with her family to Goldsboro. Having graduated from the Goldsboro schools, Miss Spier, in the fall of 1892 became a member of the first student body of the State Normal and Industrial School in Greensboro, where she graduated with the class of 1895.

Returning to her home in Goldsboro she there taught the first grade for twelve years. So successful was she that in 1907 she was invited to become supervisor of the first grade in the demonstration and practice school of her Alma Mater, where, with brief periods of absence for study, she remained, serving in various capacities in the college, for the remainder of her life, a period of thirty-one years.

Always ambitious for self-improvement, Miss Spier, at various times studied at Columbia University, receiving the B. S. degree in 1917 and the M. A. degree in 1921. In line with her advanced study and her own capabilities and interests, from 1915 on Miss Spier's teaching was confined chiefly to college classes in both winter and summer sessions. Her major teaching fields centered around the growth and development of young

children and the needs of rural teachers. In later years she taught all of the major courses for primary teachers.

Miss Spier made every effort to keep up-to-date in her theory and in her first-hand knowledge of actual classroom conditions. From time to time she borrowed a small section of a primary grade, making herself responsible for teaching this group for one hour daily.

In cooperation with the Guilford County Schools, she sought the privilege of being helping-teacher in certain underprivileged communities, seeking to imbue the teachers with her enthusiasm for teaching and her love for and understanding of boys and girls, while helping them locate suitable instructional materials. She focussed their attention upon community resources, especially in nature study, and brought to their attention the best in children's literature of the ages. Health and social living were emphasized.

Enthusiasm, unstinted labor, and selfless devotion characterized all of Miss Spier's work for the college. Her extra-curricular activities on campus reflected her sincere interest in the students. For many years she was faculty adviser to transfer students, a position for which her kindness and understanding made her eminently fitted. Deeply interested in student welfare she gave to many counsel, encouragement, and even financial aid, setting up, with her sister, Mrs. Hattie S. Weinberg, a student loan fund. Students of her own religious faith found in her a wise friend and mentor. Her majors remember her helpful conferences, punctuated with laughter, over a cup of tea in her office. In her home she dispensed gracious hospitality especially to faculty and students away from home at Christmas and Easter.

One of Miss Spier's major interests was the Alumnae Association of which she was secretary 1912-1914, visiting alumnae groups all over the state in the interest of the McIver Loan Fund. No alumnae meeting on campus was complete without her.

Miss Spier's education was a continuous process throughout her career. She was in frequent attendance at numerous educational conventions and conferences. She was an early member of the Progressive Education Association, and a devoted supporter of the Association for Childhood Education, being a charter member and leader of the Greensboro group. On the national level her chief contributions were to Rural Education and College Teachers of Education.

Miss Spier possessed a broad social outlook, contributing time and valuable counsel in matters embracing not only local but national and world problems, especially inter-racial questions and world peace. She worked through many civic, social and religious organizations, including the League of Women Voters, American Association of University Women, the Inter-Faith Council, and the Council of Jewish Women. She was a founder of Temple Emanuel, a member of its board of directors, and was a potent force in its spiritual and educational activities.

Honors and honorable positions were Miss Spier's in her life time. In 1920 when the faculty of the Woman's College was reorganized, Miss Spier was one of a small number to be raised to full professorship.

In 1936 she was elected a charter member of Alpha Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma, and at the time of her death was serving as its first president. She had recently been elected vice-president of the North-western District of the North Carolina Education Association.

Upon her death on October 29, 1938, in accordance with her wishes friends instead of sending flowers contributed to a student loan fund.

On November 22, 1938, a memorial service was held for Miss Spier in the college auditorium, to which the members of the class of 1895 received special invitations from the college. Tributes were paid her by her Dean of Administration, her Rabbi, and a friend and co-worker of many years.

Two tributes summarize her life of service. A student group wrote: "The services of Miss Spier to the college and to all who knew her were so long, so varied, so effective, and so valuable that she earned our respect, and won our admiration."

A colleague paid this tribute: "Throughout the years Miss Spier had evolved a satisfying philosophy of life built upon ethical principles involving perspective, love, and tolerance. Her favorite admonition was, 'Don't waste time on trivialities'; her most frequently used word, 'share.'"

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ELIZABETH McIVER WEATHERSPOON

1870-1939

Mrs. Elizabeth McIver Weatherspoon, a pioneer in art education in North Carolina and the South, had no need of her brother's prestige and fame to make a place for herself on the campus of the North Carolina State Normal and Industrial School, which Charles Duncan McIver founded. In her thirty-three years of splendid service to the college, to the state, and to art education in general, her dignity, her integrity, her loyalty to her family and friends, her generosity, her kindness and sweetness of nature were as marked as her devotion to beauty in all its forms.

Elizabeth McIver, daughter of Henry and Sarah Harrington McIver, was born November 24, 1870, at Sanford, North Carolina, of a long line of sturdy Scotch ancestry. After receiving her early education at a private school taught by a relative for the neighborhood children, she attended Peace Institute, Raleigh, for the years 1888-1890, and studied at the State Normal and Industrial School in Greensboro, 1892-1893.

The following years she taught in the primary grades of the Greensboro city schools, until her marriage on June 12, 1900 to James R. Weatherspoon of Sanford. Upon the death of her husband in 1906, she became a member of the faculty of the practice and demonstration school of the State Normal and Industrial College, where for three years she supervised the first grade.

From earliest childhood Mrs. Weatherspoon had shown talent and interest in art. Realizing a long cherished ambition, she was in

1909-1910 granted a leave of absence to study art under Professor Arthur Dow at Columbia University.

Returning to the college in the fall of 1910, Mrs. Weatherspoon became supervisor of art in the demonstration and practice school and taught classes in art education for elementary school teachers, both in the regular year and in summer sessions, for the remainder of her life.

Ever a dreamer of dreams where the college and the study of art were concerned, she realized her longest and dearest dream when in 1935 the college established a department of art. She proudly accepted an associate professorship in the new department and loyally supported the young and talented artist, Gregory Ivy, who became its head.

In her professional life Mrs. Weatherspoon was indeed a pioneer. She was a charter member and first president of the Division of Art in the North Carolina Education Association. She was also a charter member and an enthusiastic worker in the Southeastern Arts Association and frequently contributed to its programs. She held membership in the American Federation of Arts, and was a member of the Reviewers Club, the oldest study club in Greensboro.

For a generation Mrs. Weatherspoon was an important figure in the educational, social, and civic life of the state. In consideration of her many fine contributions, she was in 1936 elected a charter member of North Carolina's Alpha Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma.

Mrs. Weatherspoon was a person of rare taste and great artistic skill. There was beauty and perfection of detail in everything she touched, from the tiny child's cap to be worn in the pageant to the gracious setting of her own hospitable table and the works of art produced by her students.

Mrs. Weatherspoon and her students were friends. They enjoyed the hospitality of her home and her delightful cuisine; for she was an excellent cook. (And, of course, Nannie, old Johnson's wife, was there to help.)

Faculty members coveted her friendship. "She never gossiped," said one friend. "She could write the kindest, most beautiful little notes," said another. "She was a tower of strength when you were in trouble," said a third.

Mrs. Weatherspoon was indeed a "woman nobly planned." She possessed a keen intellect and a ready wit. Her name became synonymous with determination, strength of character, high personal and professional integrity. Buffeted by the storms of life, she always stood four-square to the world. Courage dominated her life. She was a great soldier.

Her devotion to family and personal friends was exceptional. A loved one could do no wrong, or, if he did, her love made him whole again.

When Mrs. Weatherspoon died on May 25, 1939, the taxi driver who had driven her to school many years, said: "She was a fine lady. I'll miss her."

No more fitting memorial to Elizabeth McIver Weatherspoon could have been chosen than the establishment, after her death, of the Weatherspoon Art Gallery at the Woman's College.

Her best tribute is in the words of her colleagues: "Because Mrs. Weatherspoon lived among us, it will be easier at the college to stand for genuineness as opposed to sham; and for accurate as opposed to slipshod work; to cultivate the beautiful as opposed to the crude;

to further what is generous and highminded as opposed to what is petty and cheap. We believe she would ask no higher memorial."

